Knife Fire Update

Date: May 27, 2006, 10 p.m.

Fire Name: Knife Fire

Time/Date Started: May 27, 2006; Called in by O'Leary Lookout at 2:14 p.m.

Location: Southeast of Walnut Canyon; about 14 miles east of downtown Flagstaff; on the Coconino National Forest

Cause: Human-caused; under investigation

Fuels: Pinyon/juniper woodlands; grasses

Size: 100 acres

% Contained: 10 %

Estimated Containment Date: Unknown

Resources Committed: 5 engines, 3 water tenders, 2 Type 1 crews (hotshot crews), 2 Type 2 crews, 4 dozers, and several individual firefighting personnel; Total personnel = 118

Estimated Cost to Date: $20,000

Predicted Weather: Red Flag conditions predicted tomorrow from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. A Red Flag warning means that critical fire weather conditions are either occurring now or will occur during the warning period. A combination of strong winds and low relative humidities will create explosive fire growth potential. Tomorrow, windy and dry conditions will continue. However, winds are not expected to be as strong as today. Sustained speeds are expected to reach 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 35 mph.

Structures: No structures threatened at this time.

Concerns: Smoke on Interstate 40 continues to be a concern. However, the highway remains open. The fire has moved to within a mile of the interstate. There are also powerlines in the area. APS personnel are on scene. For their own safety, motorists should avoid the frontage road on the south side of Interstate 40 between Winona and Twin Arrows.

Summary: The fire grew rapidly today due to high winds. Long-range spotting was observed. A large smoke column was visible from Flagstaff. This evening, temperatures and winds have dropped while relative humidities have increased. This has caused fire behavior to moderate. Firefighters will be working late into the evening to try to put containment lines around the fire.

Restrictions: Campfire and smoking restrictions are in place for the Coconino National Forest.

Contact Numbers: 928-635-5607, 928-606-7490